# The Chattanooga Stamp Chronicle

**March, 2018**

Southeast Federation
Of Stamp Clubs
www.sefsc.org/federation-clubs.html

American Philatelic Society
Chapter 731
www.Stamps.org

**Official Journal of the Chattanooga Stamp Club**
**MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE HICKORY VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 6605 SHALLOWFORD RD., CHATTANOOGA, TN.**
**DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM, MEETING BEGINS AT 7:30 PM -- VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

March 8 …….……. Monthly Meeting
Program ……..……..…… The Penny Postal, by Jim Hogue
April 12 ……....…..……..….. Monthly Meeting
Program ……..……..…… 1-Page Exhibit Competition

## CLUB OFFICERS

| | |
|---|---|
| President …….. Mike Ezell | mhezell@gmail.com |
| Vice-president ….. Jim Hogue | jlhoguejr@charter.net |
| Secretary …… Rebecca Gilbert | grabelsvn@aol.com |
| Treasurer ….. Carl Anderson | connie_anderson195@epbfi.com |
| Newsletter ….. Gene Bricker | gbricker@catt.com |

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Chattanooga Stamp Club memberships are on a calendar year basis. Yearly dues are $10.00; send all monetary donations and membership dues to the club's Treasurer:

Mr. Carl Anderson, 919 Dunsinane Rd.
Signal Mountain, TN 37377

## THE CHATTANOOGA STAMP CHRONICLE

The Chattanooga Stamp Club is affiliated with the American Philatelic Society. The club has been dedicated to the study, preservation, and promotion of the philatelic hobby since 1932.

## SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF STAMP CLUBS

The Southeast Federation web site is a source for information about stamp collecting activities in the region. Visit at: www.sefsc.org/federation-clubs.html

## AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

American Philatelic Society (APS) is he largest nonprofit stamp collecting Foundation of philately in the world., With about 30,000 members as of 2017 worldwide.
Visit at: www.Stamps.org.

## FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting was called to order by the president with 10 members present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Minutes of the January meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was given and approved.

President Mike Ezell made a statement regarding honesty and stamp collectors, followed by a brief discussion.

A report on the SEFC show January 26-28 was made by Dan Chaij and others who attended.

After adjourning for refreshments, the program was presented by Ray Tessmer, "How to Make a Profit on Your Stamp Collection".

Meeting was then adjourned.

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## One Page Exhibit Rules

1. Exhibits must be entered in one of three categories:
   A. Postal History – Entire envelopes with postage and postal markings. This includes FDC's, advertising covers, ship covers, etc.
   B. United States or Foreign – Any issue including BOB items, singles, multiples, EFO's etc.
   C. Topical – Including U.S., Foreign, mixed, seals, etc. that have a topical theme.
2. Limit 3 entries per person. Can be all in one category or in multiple categories.
3. Must be on 8-1/2 x 11 sheets of white card stock in a plastic page protector.
4. Contents can include anything that fits on a page, i.e. pictures, graphics, photo copies, etc., however, a real stamp or cover **must be included** in the exhibit.
5. Descriptions can be typed or hand-written.
6. Judging will be by popular vote of members present.
7. Exhibitors name **must not** be a part of the exhibit.

*Neatness counts, good eye appeal means votes.*
*First place will be awarded in each category.*
*One overall winner will receive a prize.*

## Message from the President

Fellow Stamp Collectors, another month has come and gone and we are anticipating another month of meeting as a club. At our last meeting the attendance was low for one reason or another with sickness being the biggest reason.

At last months' meeting, I addressed an issue that I think needs to be mentioned again for those who could not be with us. As you know, one of our members mentioned that he had a couple of stamps removed from the albums that he brings for the pleasure of us all to add to our collections. I just want to say that as a club, this type of conduct will not be tolerated and can result in actions, from being removed from the club to prosecution by the owner of the property taken. The position of the club is that it will stand behind any kind of action that deems necessary to solve the issues. The integrity of the club, its members and the hobby of stamp collecting must be above reproach. This kind of conduct is not only a bad mark on the club but morally wrong. The officers will address this issue in our next officer's meeting and will develop some ideas to prevent this in the future. I had some great ideas presented at the last club meeting and I certainly appreciate those.

With that being said, I am honored to be your president and I will continue to lead us in the direction of growth and improvement in our endeavor to keep stamp collecting fun and exciting for all. See you at the March meeting.

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**AUCTION CARDS FOR THE UPCOMING AUCTION WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE MARCH MEETING**

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FEBRUARY U.S. STAMP ISSUES

February 9
U.S. Flag
Pane and Coils

February 22
Bioluminescent Life
10 Stamps

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| Member No. | Member Name |
|---|---|
| 491 | Titus Albu |
| 294 | Carl Anderson |
| 479 | Richard Barr |
| 459 | Gene Bricker |
| 512 | Brendan Brosnan |
| 517 | John Burnett |
| 236 | Jack Case |
| 510 | Ed Cejka, Sr. |
| 511 | Patricia Cejka |
| 471 | Dan Chaij |
| 480 | Mike Ezell |
| 448 | Rebecca Gilbert |
| 507 | Steve Gordon |
| 484 | Larry Hines |
| 477 | Jim Hogue |
| 501 | Sherry Hogue |
| 506 | Lori Hood |
| 487 | Tom Matuszak |
| 422 | Ed Meeks |
| 476 | Bill Murphy |
| 515 | Jeff Parker |
| 514 | Randy Patterson |
| 516 | Jim Roberts |
| 493 | Mary Sheckells |
| 489 | Ray Tessmer |
| 473 | Nick Thornton |
| 498 | Darrell Zeuercher |
| J-3 | Romie Albu |

**2018 Membership with paid-up dues:**

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This is the list of the members of Chattanooga Stamp Club that are paid up for 2018. If your name is not on this list, contact Carl Anderson to pay your 2018 dues or get the list corrected.

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JOHN BURNETT RECEIVES AWARD!

John Burnett, a recent addition to the membership of Chattanooga Stamp Club was presented with the Rowland Hill Award for his lifetime contributions to philately in the Southeast. This award was presented at the Southeastern Stamp Expo Awards Ceremony on January 27, 2018.

# Will Durland List My Unique Plate Block?

By **Raymond G. Tessmer Jr.**
4432 James Ln., Chattanooga, TN 37416
Chattanooga Stamp Club member #489

*Note: This article was rejected for publication by the U.S. Stamp Society in The United States Specialist because the editor regarded it as a "personal attack" on Kim Johnson, editor of Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog. This it is not! Mr. Johnson does his job well, getting out a new edition of the catalog every four years on time. But he is not the expert on plate blocks that his staff is. If there is a problem with his work, it is his monthly column, 'Plate Number Report,' which does not always report 'newly discovered' old plate block numbers. However, this may be Society policy and not his. I do have an issue with the 'experts' on Kim's staff. An increasing number of errors and inconsistencies have been creeping into Durland, some of which are mentioned in this article. I have treated this matter in what I thought would be the best way, humorously, but I guess criticism is always hard to take. Anyway, Joel Rind pestered me for months to write the article, and he got a charge out of it after I finally did.*

My recent experience in trying to get several unlisted plate blocks into the *2016 Durland Standard Plate Number Catalog* provides a short answer: with great difficulty; easily; or not at all! This answer deserves elaboration.

With Great Difficulty

Publication of a previously unknown block that has never appeared in any stamp catalog can be a very difficult objective. My experience is with Scott #1844, the 1¢ Dorothea Dix stamp in the Great Americans series that was first issued in 1983.

Since sometime in the '80s I have owned a plate block strip of 20 of this stamp with plate #1 and large block tagging. Its provenance is probably the Philatelic Sales Office in DC, although I cannot be certain. Fig. 1 shows this block under ultraviolet light to the left of the common plate #2 having large block tagging. Interestingly, the plate #2 right-hand block has registration marks, while plate #1, as well as the other two listed plate #1 varieties, do not.

I kept waiting for *Durland's* editors to correct this omission. But after publication of *Durland's* 2012 catalog and learning about the U.S. Stamp Society, I decided to contact USSS by e-mail on 12/28/14 and have them correct the omission. Kim Johnson, the editor of *Durland*, replied on 1/13/15, "We feel that it is unlikely that any plate 1 product received large block tagging. There is a range of tagging sizes and sometimes it is difficult to tell when small becomes large unless the tagging is at one extreme or the other." (Translation: Two officers of the Society own virtually complete collections of the Great Americans series, and they don't believe you.) He went on to suggest that I have the block expertized and that USSS would reimburse the cost.

The winter of 2015 turned out to be fierce and snowy in the northeast; so I decided to send my block, along with a plate #2 block for comparison, to Florida for expertizing on 1/27/15. This process, apparently, is not quick. But after a phone call or two I received my certificate dated 3/31/15 bearing the coveted words, "It is genuine". I notified Kim of the authenticity on 4/6/15 and followed up with a scan of the certificate. Reimbursement was not, of course, automatic. But it finally appeared after another e-mail to Kim on 8/30/15.

A setback occured via a phone call from Kim on 9/2/15. I would need a second expertization because the firm that I used could not be trusted. This, aside from the fact that the reason for mistrust was something other than their area of expertization. (Translation: The two officers of USSS still didn't believe me.)

On 9/14/15 I sent my block to an 'approved' service up north. A phone

*(Continued next column→)*

call on 11/3/15 confirmed that it was genuine; so I e-mailed Kim and asked if it was necessary for the two USSS officers to inspect it in person. He wisely declined to respond. Eventually the second certificate dated 10/22/15 arrived with the coveted words, "It is genuine".

Lo and behold, my plate block did appear in the 2016 *Durland* catalog under Scott #1844d. But they listed the left position as well as my right position, and I'm not sure that anyone in possession of a left position strip was ever found.

Easily

Two other unique plate blocks of mine got into *Durland* rather easily. The first was the 4¢ Postal Note of 1945, Scott #PN4, as shown in Fig. 2. The plate number of the one I purchased at a dealer's show in Marietta is #155943. Those listed in Durland at the time were #156942 and #156943. After notifying Kim of my find on 9/21/15 and e-mailing a photo of it, this plate number was added to the two others for the 2016 catalog.

Subsequent to having this accepted I met Matt Benwood[1] at a Huntsville show who has a large collection of postal note blocks. I told him of my find and subsequently e-mailed a photo. He promptly sent back a good news/bad news report. "Good news!!! I looked at your postal note and I checked the new 2016 *Durlands*. Your plate number is now listed!"

"Bad News. So I pulled out my postal note plate block collection and I have that plate number too. Also, I have plate number 155942. In fact all the 4¢ postal notes I have are numbers 155942 and 155943...Unfortunately, it's a typo in *Durlands*....I.... found they only started listing them in 2000 (it was wrong there too and in every one after that.)" Both of us notified Kim, and a twenty-year-old mistake should be corrected in the 2020 edition.

The second plate block to easily make it into *Durland* is the 18¢ Alcoholism commemorative, Scott #1927, with small block tagging (Fig. 3). This stamp is remembered best for poor sales and a higher catalog value. Who would have bought it with the slogan, "Alcoholism - You can beat it", and put it on a letter to a friend?

This and fourteen other large commemorative stamps were printed between 1981 and 1985 on the (floating) A press. With 23 positions around the printing plate cylinder, plate numbers progressed down or across sheet margins. All had large block tagging. Only the first one, Alcoholism, was also printed with small block tagging. I notified Kim of this in a 2/22/16 e-mail, noted that small block tagging was probably listed in the *Scott Specialized Catalog*, e-mailed ultraviolet photos of both varieties, and sent him the name and phone no. of one of two dealers currently selling both at an Atlanta stamp show. Small block tagging made it into the 2016 *Durlands*, but not without error. It's now listed as #1927c, but it's also listed under #1927. Oh well.

Not at All

One other effort at listing a unique variety was not successful. This was Scott #1603, the 24¢ Old North Church stamp in the Americana series without tagging. I proposed adding this in an e-mail to Kim on 4/6/15, noting that it had been listed in the 2002 Kraus-Minkus catalog with a price of $20. It was not a rarity, and I myself owned two of the untagged blocks. One is shown in Fig. 4 next to the tagged variety. A small amount of phosphorescent ink smearing from the press rolls is present, but it is clear that the taggant plate did not transfer ink. Kim's answer on 4/18/15 was, "*Durland* does not normally list untagged errors".

*(Continued next page)*

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Addenda

Inclusion of printing errors for stamps sold to the public appears to be somewhat haphazard in *Durland*. For example, the missing period on the #784 3¢ Susan B. Anthony stamp is noted. The 'toaster cord' flaw (my favorite) on the #2633 29¢ Space Accomplishments stamp is not. Both can be acquired at modest cost. Also, color variations are separately identified in the Great Americans series (#2171 4¢ Father Flanagan, #2943 78¢ Alice Paul). But absence of one color is not so identified in regard to phosphorescent taggant (#C75 20¢ and #C81 21¢ USA & Jet). These variations, again, can be acquired at moderate cost. If the ink is invisible, does this mean that the stamp variety must be invisible in *Durland*? And why are blocks such as these not listed when collectors and dealers do regularly buy and sell them?

As difficult as it might be to have a newly discovered plate block listed in *Durland*, it can be almost impossible to have it listed in the monthly Plate Number Report in *The United States Specialist* unless, say, it's a beer stamp. Matt's 4¢ postage due and my 1¢ Dorothea Dix attest to this.

At any rate, the satisfaction of finding an unlisted plate block and having it published is worth the turmoil. I am now resting up in case I locate another unique plate block not listed in *Durland*.

1. Matt Benwood of Murfreesboro, TN also specializes in postage dues. His article about finding the first Scott #J92 4¢ postage due plate with dull gum was published in the 9/16 issue of *The United States Specialist*.

Fig. 1 Scott #1844d under ultraviolet light with newly discovered Plate #1 on the left and common Plate #2 on the right.

Fig. 2 Scott #PN4 with "new" plate #155943

Fig. 3 Scott #1927 under ultraviolet light with large block tagging on the left and small block tagging on the right

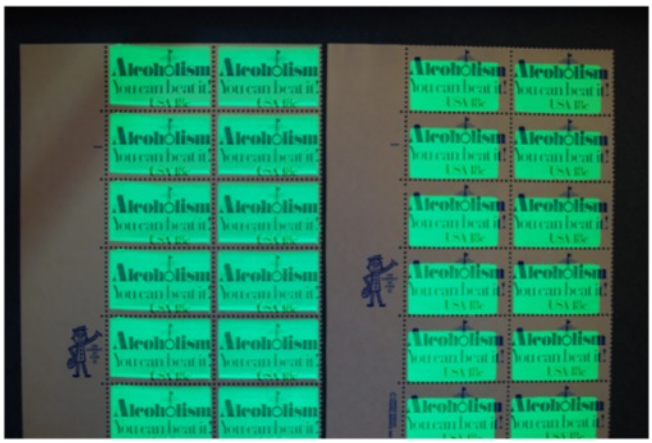
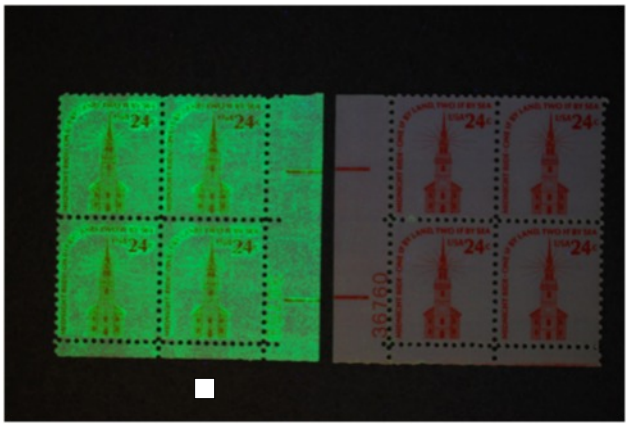



Fig. 4 Scott #1603 under ultraviolet light with tagging on the left and no tagging on the right

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Thanks to member Ray Tessmer for this article.

SAY, THESE COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES WE DO ARE JUST GREAT...
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE ~ DESIGN DEPT.
THEY REMIND PEOPLE OF THINGS NEAR AND DEAR TO THEM IN OUR HERITAGE
FOR INSTANCE, I HAVE AN IDEA HERE FOR THE NEW 35¢ POSTCARDS...
COMMEMORATING THE PENNY POSTCARD
ETTA HULME
FORT WAYNE STAR-TELEGRAM N.E.A. '78